



Student Visa and U.S. Higher Education
A U.S. Consulate General, Hyderabad Face book
Chat, held on May 17th, 2013 from 03:00pm – 04:00pm
Facebook Chat Transcript

Student: Sir,
with reference to the previous question about my 221(g) delay. Assuming I get the visa after stipulated time frame given by the university, I have to defer my joining to next year..In that case, is there a possibility that I would face the same 221(g) processing again that time when I reapply?

U.S. Vice Consul: Deepak, we cannot speculate about a future application. We do our best to complete administrative processing as quickly as possible.

This is also why it's a great idea to apply now! Even if you are not travelling for another few months, apply right away, to avoid any unplanned delays.

Student: Hi sir, I heard this from many, don't know whether its correct or not. I heard that Visa officer will check the profile of the student and decide whether to approve or reject visa before the interview starts, If he decides to grant the visa then without asking many questions directly he will approve the visa and if he decide to reject him/her then wantedly he will ask many questions and reject them even if they answers are impressive...?
Thank you :)

U.S. Vice Consul: Nikita, if the officers made decisions before interviews began, there would be no need for interviews! Rest assured that all visa applications are given every possible consideration consistent with U.S. immigration law.

Hi, Is it necessary to carry the rejection letters from all the Universities he applied to,for the VISA interview?

No.

Student: Thank you but what does receiving a 221(g) means what are the chances of getting approval? Is it denied or will b approved in future?

U.S. Vice Consul: If the officer was planning to ultimately deny your visa, he or she would have done so at the conclusion of the interview. A 221(g) refusal means that there remains a possibility of your being issued a visa, but again, each case of administrative processing is different. Rest assured we process every case as quickly as possible, to arrive at a final decision.

Student: Hi, Will the Consular Officer consider it as a negative if a VISA applicant is single? It boils down to perception. But considering that people are increasingly marrying at a later age these days, do you think the Consular Officer will/ should even consider this as a criteria?

U.S. Vice Consul: Srinivas, applicants with any marital status are welcome to apply for a U.S. student visa.

Student: Hi,

I was admitted into the PhD program in an applied field of social sciences (Public Administration). Previously, I have a masters in agriculture and an M.Phil degree in Science Policy). I also have 5 years of relevant work experience with India's National e-Governance Program.

The head of the department at my previous school has provided me a letter stating that the PhD program in U.S. will open up academic career opportunities for me in India in an emerging area of policy research in e-Governance. Will these suffice to demonstrate my academic preparation for the proposed course of study? Is there anything else I can do?

U.S. Vice Consul : Srinivas, it is up to you how to plan to prove you are a credible student.

As noted earlier, be prepared to talk about your academic past and future plans. Bring whatever documentation you feel will help the officer make his or her decision.

Student: Hi,

My I-20 lists the total expenses (including tuition & fee as well as living expenses) to be 47000 USD. The University provides me full funding for this amount through a teaching assistantship and full fee waiver.

Additionally, I will show both liquid assets to cover the first year expenses as well as documentary proof of fixed assets. Will these suffice to demonstrate the ability to fund the program of study?

U.S. Vice Consul : Srinivas, you need to demonstrate to the officer that you can afford to pay for the first year of your education and residence in the United States. It's up to you how you want to do that. Be prepared to show financial evidence that you, or whoever is sponsoring you, have sufficient funds to cover your tuition and living expenses during the period of your intended study. Your sources of funding must be equal to or greater than your total expenses listed on the I-20 form.

Student :Hi sir,

I had appeared for the US visa interview process this April 3rd at the Hyderabad consulate office .After the interview, I was given the 221(g) white slip and was told that my case required administrative processing. My date for joining the college as per the I-20 was over on May 15.I understands that it takes a minimum of 60 days for the processing to go through. My query however is regarding my case where the date of joining mentioned in the I-20 has passed. Will I be required to send any additional docs such as an extension letter from my university to the consulate general now? I have been granted an extension of 2 weeks from my university after which I can't join the course this year. What is required to be done in case I am issued the visa after the stipulated extension period?

Thanks in advance

U.S. Vice Consul : Hi, Deepak. Administrative processing varies from case to case, and could take less than 60 days, or more. If additional information is required, the applicant will be notified. For specific questions regarding your case, please write to support-india@ustraveldocs.com.

Student: I have an I-20 and visa based on a New York institute. Can i land in Texas to meet my family before I start my course ?

U.S. Vice Consul : Munir, having a valid U.S. visa allows you to travel to any port of entry, airport or land border crossing, and request permission of the immigration officer to enter the country. If you choose to arrive in Texas, the immigration officer may question you to determine whether you plan to go on to New York to enroll in your institute. Remember, when travelling on the F1 student visa, you cannot enter the U.S. more than 30 days prior to the start date listed on you I-20.

Student: Sir what does an 221(g) means?

U.S. Vice Consul :221(g) is a section of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act. It indicates that the officer has yet to arrive at a final decision. Some visa applications require further administrative processing, which takes additional time after the visa applicant's interview by a consular officer. Applicants are advised of this requirement when they apply. Most administrative processing is resolved within 60 days of the visa interview. When administrative processing is required, the timing will vary based on individual circumstances of each case. Visa applicants are reminded to apply early for their visa, well in advance of the anticipated travel date.

In fact, students can apply up to 120 days prior to the start date listed on their I-20. So apply early everyone! And if you cannot find a slot at the U.S. Consulate at Hyderabad, you are welcome to apply at any other Consulate or the Embassy in New Delhi

Student: Hi sir, I have backlog in my 4th year. And have supplementary exam on june 18th, and will get results of it in july. it will be too late for me. Can i apply to Visa with this live backlog? I have my I20

U.S. Vice Consul : Hi all you need to apply for an F1 student visa is a valid I-20 form and your passport. You should be prepared to talk about your academic past in India and future plans to prove you are a credible, qualified student.

Student: Hi sir I completed my UG recently, Still didn't get memo of 4th year, Can i apply to visa without that memo, I have I20..

U.S. Vice Consul : In order to apply for a student visa, you must have a valid I-20 form and passport. Your transcripts are not required. That said, you should bring whatever documents you feel will support your application. Just keep in mind that nonimmigrant visas are not document-based, and the officer may not ask to see your documents.

Student: Hi Officer, Good After Noon

My F1 visa was rejected on 16th May, Visa Officer said that he refused me due to 214b cause, Actually I don't have any intention to be in USA , I just want to complete my MASTER's and I have 2 years of experience and I have more than enough funds to support my education and I need to expertise in my area of interest .So what changes should i make to my profile and when should I apply again .

U.S. Vice Consul : Good afternoon, Ratna Individuals whose nonimmigrant visa applications were refused are eligible to reapply. However, we do not recommend that applicants reapply unless they are able to present significant new evidence that addresses the previous grounds for refusal.

An applicant for a student visa (F-1 or M-1) must demonstrate the following:

- Acceptance at a school.
- Possession of sufficient funds.
- Minimum preparation for course of study.
- Present intent to remain in nonimmigrant status at the conclusion of their studies

Student: Hi sir, I have read several visa experiences who have been rejected, as they UG was 72% and gre around 295 and applied to a low university, Question was raised that your UG is so good why you choose low profile university.. My question is, My gre is 305 and UG 65 (6 backlogs), as my GRE is good but didn't get admit in good schools because of my less UG and backlogs. So Finally i got I20 from U texas tyler.. And i'm going to visa with it, I am afraid whether I will be rejected, says I have good GRE and applied to low profile university... Can to know what can happen in my case? Thank you

U.S. Vice Consul : Nikita, no two visa applicants are the same. Consular officers evaluate the totality of a student's application, including their academic preparation for the proposed course of study, their intent to study while in the United States, and their ability to fund their program of study. You may apply for an F1, as long as you have a valid I-20 form. As I told Surya, all applicants are given every possible consideration consistent with U.S. immigration law. However, there is never a guarantee that any applicant will have their visa approved.

Student: Good afternoon sir my question is what is the reason for more number of f1 visa rejections at Hyderabad when compared to other consulates and one more question for non mathematical background students cannot score more in gre, most of our friends scored around 280-285 even though v worked very hard.. And we were very in a sick mood and we cannot take again a test.. We

are tensed to go to visa interview.. is it a reason to reject visa....so please give us your valuable suggestion

U.S. Vice Consul : Surya, all visa applicants, regardless of where they are interviewed, are given every possible consideration consistent with U.S. immigration law. However, there is never a guarantee that any applicant will have their visa approved.

It is understandable that applicants can be nervous at the interview -- it's a very important moment. But just be prepared to answer the officer's questions and talk about your academic past in India and future plans. Be honest and give original answers, not what you think you should say, and you will do fine.

Student: Hello Officer.... my question is that if I get admitted to PhD in Pharmaceutical sciences with full scholarship as the PhD is fully funded in US, So do I need to have a bank loan during my visa interview?? Thank you for this wonderful opportunity

U.S. Vice Consul :Hi, Sandeep. Your I-20 will list both the cost of your studies and the sources you plan to use to fund your studies. If your scholarship covers the entire amount of the cost, then that is satisfactory. However, there are a number of associated costs with studying, including lodging, health insurance, fees, etc., so make sure you have a credible plan to pay for all your expenses.

Student: Is there a site that can serve as a guide for a first time traveler to the US. Some do's and don't's. What can be brought into the US. Regulations etc. Thank you. The Cbp.gov site is not easy to navigate !

U.S. Vice Consul : Please visit <http://travel.state.gov> for more information on traveling to the U.S.A.

Student: Hello. I am pursuing 4th year of my Ph.D. I have to get an extension for my visa status. I have heard that I need to carry SEVIS receipt for the interview. But, I have lost mine. What would you suggest me to do?

U.S. Vice Consul : The SEVIS fee receipt is not a mandatory document for the interview. However if the SEVIS fee status is not active, then you will be asked to submit the receipt

Student: hi sir I have a refusal of f1 visa can I reapply once again thank u

U.S. Vice Consul : Applicants who are refused non-immigrant visas are eligible to reapply. We recommend that applicants reapply only if they are able to present new evidence that addresses the previous grounds for refusal.

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